

NEW YORK TIMES
18 OCTOBER 1975

NEW INQUIRY SET ON MAIL OPENING

Senate Panel Is Said to Plan
'Broader' Public Hearings

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence will hold three days of public hearings next week on the opening of domestic first-class mail by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a committee source disclosed today.

The committee has held open hearings on the C.I.A.'s mail interceptions, as have other Congressional panels. But the committee source said that the hearings next week would be "broader" than those in the past. He declined to elaborate, except to provide the names of witnesses scheduled to testify.

They are Gordon Stewart, Thomas Abernathy, and John Glennon, all of whom were involved in a mail-interception study by the C.I.A. Inspector General in 1969 and 1970; former Postmasters General J. Edward Day and John A. Gronouski; former Chief Postal Inspectors Henry Montague and William J. Cotter, and three F.B.I. officials, W. Raymond Wannall, Donald E. Moore and William Brannigan.

A second committee source said that the senate panel, headed by Senator Frank Church, the Idaho Democrat, was not ready to proceed with hearings on the structure and performance of the dozen or so agencies that make up the Federal intelligence community.

These hearings, which will take place periodically between now and the end of the year, will look into covert activities by intelligence agencies abroad, the methods used to collect intelligence, the preparation of national intelligence estimates for other countries and the future of the intelligence community.

The source said the committee hoped to hold some open hearings in each of those areas, although that might not prove possible where covert activities were concerned.

He said that the Church committee had still not worked out with the Ford Administration "an acceptable format" for conducting public hearings on what it has learned about the National Security Agency, the Defense Department's highly secretive crypt-analytical and communications intelligence organization.

But, he said, discussions were continuing, and the committee members still hoped "to bring to the public the maximum amount of information they possibly can."